Dear Alumni and Friends:

It gives us great joy to again bring good news from the OC campus. God continues to bless this university in many ways through His providential care and the support and prayers of our alumni and friends. We want you to know we do not take those blessings and support for granted.

OC is growing not only in numbers of students, but in prestige as well. As we continue this progress, however, I want to reassure you that we will not lose sight of the most important factor in OC’s success, and that is our unbreakable commitment to Christian principles in everything we do.

You may have read “The Dying of the Light: The Disengagement of Colleges and Universities from Their Christian Churches,” by James Tunstead Burtchaell. In his book, he discusses the secularization of Christian colleges. An excellent article by Dawn Shelton beginning on page 2 explores this subject in more detail. I want to personally assure you that our trustees, faculty and administration are taking strong steps to make sure that the “light” at OC does not die, or even grow dim.

January was national Christian Higher Education Month for the colleges and universities affiliated with the churches of Christ. OC participated by arranging for full-page ads in the Christian Chronicle, headlined “There is a Difference,” and by sending speakers to many churches in our area to talk about the extraordinary value of Christian Higher Education.

We believe that learning shaped by faith results in living that is shaped by faith. OC is committed to spiritual formation in our students – the cultivation of personal faith, Bible study, prayer and obedience to the Lord. Christ-centered higher education integrates faith and learning in ways that mold a whole person for a complete life both on this earth and through eternity. (Please read more about the advantages of a Christian higher education on page 7).

Christian education is becoming more and more important as we see our Christian values challenged and removed from society. Our hope is that you will support Christian higher education however you can. I am amazed at the billions of dollars alumni and friends are pouring into secular universities, many of whom are actively working against the values of those benefactors. Unless Christian people and alumni get behind and financially support our Christian institutions with their income and their estates, we will not be able to continue competing effectively academically or spiritually.

Above all, please pray for our dedicated faculty and staff who sacrifice a great deal to serve the Kingdom through Christian higher education. The faculty, staff and Board of Trustees at Oklahoma Christian are committed to ensuring that the light never dies.

In His service,

Mike E. O'Neal, President
Advancing in the Light  OC students put time and effort into worthy causes.

10 OCWA
Organization celebrates 50 years of service to Oklahoma Christian.

12 Running the Steps
Alumnus works on Capitol Hill.

13 Vienna Team
Spreading the word in Europe is a family thing.

9 Students In Service
OC students put time and effort into worthy causes.

14 Alumni In Action
Features on alumni Mike Bosley, David and Kim Romero, and Saundra (Umholtz) Traywick.

16 Milestones
The latest comings and goings of your former classmates.

22 News
Updates on the recent accomplishments and happenings at your alma mater.

28 Honor Roll of Donors
A list of financial supporters who have graciously given to OC in the past year.
OC Remains True to Spiritual Roots

Although our alma mater has changed locations, names, faculty and leadership since it was founded in 1950, one central aspect has never changed: the university’s Christian character.

But there are plenty of stories of other universities that started out closely affiliated with a denomination but over time, strayed away from it or blatantly abandoned it.

Would OC ever stray from its spiritual moorings? Would it ever turn away from what the founders of our university determined to establish almost six decades ago?

The answer is a resounding “No!” And the answer lies much deeper than requiring daily Chapel attendance and Bible courses of its students.

From the Board of Trustees, OC’s national governing body that is comprised of active Church of Christ members, to OC’s administration, faculty, staff and students, there is a commitment that the university is “a distinctly Christian higher-learning community valuing faith, scholarship, integrity, stewardship and liberty,” as its mission documents state.

Don Millican, chairman of OC’s Board of Trustees, says fidelity to our Christian mission is very important.

“I believe we owe it to those who have sacrificed so much to bring this university into existence and to continue its existence,” he said. “We owe it to them to hold true to the purpose for which they established it. They committed this place to the Lord, and it is, therefore, His.”

Still, the university recognized that it could not take for granted that what we were, we would always be.

“We have been far more deliberate and explicit in our strategic planning,” said Dr. Jeanine Varner, who has served as the vice president of academic affairs for 11 years.

Steps to emphasize faith-based learning in the core curriculum (general education classes for all students) were implemented early in Varner’s tenure. For example, a communication professor might highlight a scripture as a guidepost in the course syllabus, or another professor might require a service project.

Q & A with the Chairman

For more on this important issue of Oklahoma Christian’s spiritual purpose, we offer an interview with Don Millican, chair of OC’s Board of Trustees. Millican lives in Broken Arrow, Okla., where he is an elder at the Park Plaza congregation. He is chief financial officer of Kaiser-Francis Oil Company.

Q: Through summer retreats, and other purposeful planning, the board has devoted itself to this issue of not wavering from our spiritual purposes, as other institutions have since their founding. Do you think that has been a meaningful exercise to the board, and how important has it been for the board to work toward defining this commitment?

A: Beginning about five years ago, we took it upon ourselves to study the history of higher learning institutions that began their existence committed to a Christian mission, but essentially or openly abandoned that mission over time. The obvious questions in our minds were: what happened to lead to that abandonment and how do we avoid a similar fate?

From that study, we determined common factors that led to the drift away from Christian mission in those institutions:

1. Friction between Christian doctrine and academic freedom.
2. The advent of trustees with loyalty more to the university as an entity than to its Christian mission.
3. Marginalization of theological discourse and study — both in a separation of faith and learning in the classroom as well as the demise of chapel.

In addition, students have been offered a second major in vocational ministry for the last several years. More than 200 students have taken on a double major — one in their area of interest (accounting, engineering, music, etc.) and the other in Bible. The extra hours can equip students to be vocational ministers wherever they begin their new careers in new communities.

There’s evidence that the more overt emphasis on students’ personal spiritual development has made a tremendous impact. Before graduating, seniors are surveyed about their OC experiences. Here are some of their anonymous comments:

• Certain classes challenged me to learn better to “love my neighbor” no matter who that neighbor is, what they look like or believe.
• My Christian Finance class pushed us to look at materialism and realize how easy it is to get caught up in it.
• The case studies and service projects have pushed me to both think about how I will act in certain situations and then following through by actually doing the service projects, instead of just talking about them.
• Many of my core courses caused me to think outside of the box, to challenge myself to stretch my abilities. Classes such as philosophy, literature and fine arts exposed me to other perspectives. Bible courses taught me to look deeper into the stories and characters of the Bible.

The classroom is not the only place where students are growing spiritually. A weekly late-night worship service, VIEW 63, is wildly popular as are small groups, break-out Chapel services and prayer groups. Many OC students lead and participate in spring break and summer campaign trips.

Meanwhile, in the boardroom, trustees continue to pray for God’s leading as they ensure the university stays true to its mission as a “higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.

by Dawn Shelton (90)
4. Initiatives of university presidents that compromise the mission.
5. A preponderance of tenured faculty who are unsupportive of the mission.
6. A breaking of ties with the founding denomination caused by friction therewith and allowed by financial independence there from. Without exception, these factors played out very gradually over a period of decades.

The process of simply identifying these factors has had significant value to the trustees as we set policy for Oklahoma Christian. Simply put, if we are committed to continuing the Christian mission of Oklahoma Christian University, which we deeply are, then we must take these factors seriously and set policies to address them. We have spent much of the past five years doing just that.

Q: What is your satisfaction about the actions the university has taken to commit to our spiritual purposes? Have we done enough? Will we do more? From Chapel, to Bible classes, or bringing more “spiritual matters” into the syllabi for each course, has this been worthwhile?

A: I am satisfied that we have made a good start in addressing the key factors mentioned above. The board has set policies addressing each of them: policies addressing academic freedom and setting appropriate limits on it, policies expecting strong and continuing focus on integrating faith and learning in the classroom, continuing to have biblical instruction core to our curriculum and continuing chapel as a daily reminder of the centrality of faith to our mission, policies requiring commitment to Christian mission and commitment to the church to be significant requirements in the tenuring of faculty and the hiring or faculty and staff, policies emphasizing the critical need to strengthen ties with the churches of Christ which members founded this university. These policies having been established, each president of this university is to be held accountable for following them. And, of critical importance, we continue to add trustees who are deeply committed to OC’s spiritual mission.

Q: What will be required on the board’s part from this point forward will be continuing diligence in monitoring the administration’s compliance with these policies. What do you think alumni would want to know about this issue? As a large stakeholder group of the university – as well as parents and future parents of our students – why is this important to them?

A: The issue of fidelity to Christian mission is important for so many reasons. First, I believe we owe it to those who have sacrificed so much to bring this University into existence and to continue its existence. We owe it to them to hold true to the purpose for which they established it. They committed this place to the Lord, and it is, therefore, His. Secondly, those who may choose to sacrificially give of their means to support a Christian institution of higher learning should be assured that the leadership is committed to remaining true to that mission. Thirdly, I do not believe that the world needs another secular liberal arts university. There is a special role that a Christian university has to play in our society, in producing graduates who are academically and intellectually proficient Christians – Christians who are equipped to address the problems and challenges of the world through a Christian worldview. A Christian university also serves an important role in producing scholarly thought and work developed within a Christian worldview framework.

Q: You are not an alumnus of Oklahoma Christian. Why are you so committed to the university?

A: There are two key reasons. First, I see the university experience as a vector point in life. From my observation, a person makes many decisions during that time that determine what kind of adult he or she will be. Influences from faculty and fellow students have a major impact on those decisions. The academic and spiritual foundation given to a student by OC gives young people their absolute best opportunity to succeed as a Christian member of society. I have seen this in my own children and their spouses who have attended Oklahoma Christian. Second, I see the strengthening impact OC has on the church. In my home congregation in Tulsa, we count almost 100 OC alumni among our members and they are invariably among the most active, talented and committed members of our congregation. From discussions with the leadership of other congregations, our experience is by no means unique.

Q: Are there any other blessings or comments to share?

A: The focus of your questions has, appropriately, centered on Christian mission and the board’s role relative thereto. However, a significant frustration of mine is that the academic quality of OC seems to be one of the world’s best-kept secrets. From my observations, the graduates of OC are extraordinarily well prepared to succeed in the marketplace, either in their professional field or in post-graduate academic work. It makes sense, when you think about it. I attended a large state university, and I was well along in my education before I had anyone other than a graduate student teaching my undergraduate classes. That has only grown worse as professors in the research institutions spend most of their time in research, and what classes they teach are generally at the graduate level. At OC, we have talented and committed professors teaching the undergraduate classes. The education is simply superior.
FOCUSBING MINISTRY ON TRANSFORMATION

Quest is a new program launched specifically to inspire, inform and help equip local church ministries to be more effective. Presentations and facilitated small groups will enhance learning and address real ministry challenges facing churches today.

Keynote speakers include Arnelious Crenshaw, Mike Armour, Jim Baird, and Jerry Jones. Other presenters and track leaders include Jim Anderson, Dave Malone, Grady King, Stafford North, Pancho Hobbes, Paul Watson, Mitch Wilburn, Darryl Tippens, and Jeff Childers.

Special classes on spirituality, ministry and the media, ministry and legal issues, use of video in worship, and ministry in small communities will be offered.

Additional venues will feature praise and worship, music concerts, children’s activities, open forum, and a dinner for elders/ministers and their spouses.

MATTHEW 6:33
But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
How do you define an OC Graduate? In late 2005, a blue ribbon panel of OC faculty, staff and alumni was assembled to tackle that question and describe what an OC graduate should be, know and do. After numerous revisions and thorough reviews by faculty, staff and the Board of Trustees, a document entitled “The OC Graduate” was published in January.

“We needed to articulate the outcomes desired for the students who come through Oklahoma Christian University,” said President Mike O’Neal, who initiated the project. “The Blue Ribbon Panel, chaired by Dr. Matt McCook, did an excellent job – with input from many of our stakeholders – of identifying the characteristics we hope to see in all our graduates.”

“The OC Graduate” will enable faculty and staff to evaluate the current curriculum and co-curriculum with an eye toward specific outcomes. It will help them measure how well Oklahoma Christian is doing against a set of criteria focused on outcome.

“Obviously, no one could measure up to the standard completely, but it does give us an ideal to strive for,” O’Neal said.

O’Neal said the university is probably doing “90+ percent” now, but plans to closely examine current programs to see if anything is missing. Each department will be asked to document how they are contributing to the success of “The OC Graduate.”

Here are a few excerpts from “The OC Graduate:”

“The OC graduate knows the liberal arts, which enrich life and prepare for the inevitable challenges, opportunities, and changes of life. The OC graduate knows the specialized knowledge, research methodologies, problem-solving strategies, and practical skills that enable competent living in modern society and successful competition in the global marketplace. The OC graduate knows how to communicate clearly and think independently, critically, and creatively.

“The OC graduate is committed to intellectual and spiritual inquiry, nurturing the mind and spirit throughout life. The OC graduate is devoted to Christ, seeking to emulate Him and embody the fruit of the Spirit.

“The OC graduate believes the Bible is the revelation of the nature and will of God, the incarnation of the Son, and the work of the Holy Spirit, and is the authority for Christian faith and practice. The OC graduate believes life has meaning only through a relationship with God, recognizing that the pursuit of knowledge in any field is ultimately a quest for understanding of God and His creation.

“The OC graduate lives as a servant-leader in family, church, profession, and community, making a difference for good in the world, both locally and globally. The OC graduate lives with integrity, by acting consistently with beliefs and in covenant relationship with God.”

To read “The OC Graduate” and other mission documents, visit www.oc.edu/missiondocs. Copies of “The OC Graduate” suitable for framing are available by contacting Corlie Agnew at 405.425.5110 or at corlie.agnew@oc.edu.
OC Promotes National Christian Higher Education Month

OC faculty and staff traveled to church pulpits across the state of Oklahoma and into Kansas and Virginia during January to help celebrate National Christian Higher Education Month.

Representing OC for Christian Higher Education Month were Drs. Mike O’Neal, Stafford North, Alan Martin, Bob Young, Harold Shank and John deSteiguer.

The celebration was sponsored by the Christian Higher Education Foundation, a consortium of Church of Christ colleges and universities that promotes the value and unique benefits of Christian higher education.

“Christian universities are about the business of transforming young lives for Christian faith, leadership and service,” Director of Church Relations Bob Rowley said. “With a Christian education, students are challenged intellectually and spiritually.”

A recent study at UCLA showed that three-fourths of college students report that they are searching for meaning and truth. However, these same students report that they seldom have the opportunity to pursue this search in classroom settings or in interactions with faculty.

“Let me ask you this,” Rowley said. “If you have children getting ready to enter college and you knew they would be searching at that college for meaning and truth, wouldn’t you want them conducting that search surrounded by Christian faculty and students? I know I would.”

Christ-centered higher education integrates faith and learning in ways that mold a whole person for a complete life. In findings from a recent National Survey of Student Engagement, 95 percent of Christian college and university alumni reported that their undergraduate experience helped them develop moral principles that guide their actions. This compares to less than 40 percent of public college and university alumni.

Dr. Stephen Henderson, president of Christian Consulting for Colleges and Ministries, Inc., draws on research from 25 years in education with more than 100 Christian colleges and 16,000 students. He concludes that religious values, attitudes and behaviors decline during the college years, except for students at Christian colleges. And research shows that values instilled in college persist for a lifetime.

Many secular universities have earned their reputation for excellence because of the quality of research conducted in their graduate schools, the size of their libraries, budgets and endowments, the successes of their athletic programs, or the breadth of their alumni base.

At such universities, professors are rewarded and promoted for their research; much less attention is given to teaching undergraduates. On Christian campuses, students often develop close relationships with their professors. Most classes are smaller, permitting interaction and more opportunity to ask questions.

“There is often the misconception that, because of the emphasis on faith, Christian colleges and universities are not as strong academically as secular schools,” Rowley said. “Nothing could be further from the truth. On most comparative or competitive measures, our students outperform those who attend secular institutions.”

For example, OC’s business graduates have achieved the highest pass rate on the CPA examination of all of Oklahoma’s universities for 10 of the past 12 years. For the past two years, 100 percent of OC’s language and literature students who applied to graduate school were accepted.

For the past three years, 98 percent of OC’s science students who applied to medical school or graduate school were accepted. OC students continue to earn national and regional honors in many other disciplines as well.

In addition to formal learning in the classroom, a quality education involves a wide variety of experiences with friends who share basic values and beliefs. The friendships that flow from these activities will last a lifetime.

“The bottom line,” said OC president Dr. Mike O’Neal, “is whether students and families receive greater value in Christian higher education. Not only can it be demonstrated that the academic and social offerings have a greater value, but I ask families and church leaders to consider what value can be placed on the eternal destiny of our young people. The probability of their remaining faithful to the Lord and to the church is dramatically higher at our Christian colleges and universities.”

by Ron Frost

In the midst of startling array of publications devoted to the college search process, Thomas Shaw’s short, practical read stands as a refreshing work specifically targeted to Christian parents.

Shaw’s perspective is timely and unique. He has studied at and worked in various types of institutions (he currently serves as vice president of student services at a faith-based college). And as the father of four teenagers, he and his wife are about to embark on the college choice journey with their children.

“College Bound” describes the typical student search process. It highlights different types of institutions and offers criteria for narrowing college choices, counsel for navigating campus visits and tips for sailing through the admissions process. The book educates parents about the actual college transition and admonishes students to make their walk with Christ a priority.

Shaw builds a strong case in favor of faith-based institutions. He cites empirical studies indicating that half the Christian young people who attend secular colleges “discard their faith by the time they finish their undergraduate degree.” He calls Christ-centered colleges and universities “spiritually charged environments to make Christian growth easier.”

Using scripture throughout, “College Bound” admonishes parents to shepherd and nurture their student through the college search process. “College Bound” provides parents the springboard necessary to guide their child through one of life’s most important decisions.

OC’s Admissions Office is giving away five free copies of “College Bound” each month for a limited time. To participate in the monthly drawing, visit www.oau.edu/collegebound. That webpage also features a podcast interview with Dr. Shaw.
Thursday, March 29, 2007

Featured Speaker:
KEN BLANCHARD

OC's Winning Business Students Land Best-Selling Author

Ken Blanchard, author of the phenomenal best seller, *The One Minute Manager*, is a legendary management and leadership educator. His visit to Oklahoma Christian University resulted from some outstanding work by OC students Christopher Wilson, Garret Gronberg and Jay Lunceford. With the help of one of their professors, Dr. Kerianne Roper, the students won a nationwide contest to develop a marketing program for Blanchard’s new book, *Lead Like Jesus*. Because of the students’ winning effort, OC received a $5,000 scholarship for its School of Business Administration and a speaking engagement by Blanchard.

OC Associates are Oklahoma Christian University supporters who contribute $1,000 or more per year. To become an OC Associate, contact the Oklahoma Christian University Office of Advancement.

- Ph: 405.425.5094  - Email: john.destaiguer@oc.edu

www.oc.edu/associates
World AIDS Day

On Dec. 7, OC students remembered the millions of children in Africa who have been affected by the AIDS epidemic. Hundreds of students wore orange “Orphan” shirts that gave a visual reminder throughout the day of African AIDS victims and orphans. Students picked up cards in the Thelma Gaylord Forum and prayed for individual children. Students also had the opportunity to sponsor individual children in Africa.

The event originally was planned on Dec. 1 to collaborate with World-Vision and World AIDS Day, but was postponed a week due to inclement weather in Oklahoma City.

In addition to the student activities, OC switched to an orange color scheme on www.oc.edu throughout that weekend to commemorate World AIDS Day and encourage people to learn more about the cause.

To see more about OC’s World AIDS Day activities, see the video at www.oc.edu/WorldAidsDay.

Wishing Well

A two-hour prayer service attended by more than 300 OC students turned into a chance for them to learn about a new organization called Wishing Well.

The event included creativity walls and information about the sponsoring organization and its cause: helping provide clean water in Africa.

“I don’t think people expected what they walked into,” said Blythe Simmons, a member of Wishing Well. “It was a little overwhelming at first.”

The creativity walls, one of which had a picture of Africa on it, were used to help students express what was in their hearts for people in Africa who are in need of new wells for clean water, Simmons said.

“From the beginning, we really wanted to combine it with art, because it’s such a good way for people to express how they feel,” she said.

The Wishing Well program was brought to OC by Ryan Groves, whose brother started the project last year at Pepperdine University.

Groves said his brother’s connection was only part of the reason he decided to support the program as well.

“It was also what’s been going on in my own heart. This was something that was really big with me, just helping people,” Groves said. “We’re hoping that our almighty God is more powerful than the almighty dollar. We didn’t even ask for money, but we ended up getting a couple of hundred dollars anyway.”

Students who attended the prayer drive said they were surprised at all of the activities at the event.

“It was amazing how much effort they put into it,” said Shannon Elsass. “I have to give them credit. They worked really hard.”

Groves said the organization hopes to continue spreading the word into the community through future events like a book drive and benefit concert.

Operation Lift

Operation Lift is an endeavor to install a chair lift for easy access between the first and second floors of OC’s Davison American Heritage (DAH) building.

Started this past fall, Operation Lift will provide a needed solution for present faculty and students as well as prevent difficulties for future students.

The Operation Lift committee, which consists of members from the history honors society Phi Alpha Theta as well as student government representatives, held various drives to raise money for the lift.

During Homecoming, students contributed by voting with their change for their favorite homemade ice cream made by faculty and staff members. Students also bought OC car stickers to support the effort.

The Student Government Association held a t-shirt drive during its Random Acts of Kindness week in November. Students donated their surplus t-shirts so they could be recycled around and purchased as “new” by other students for $1.

The largest support came from an SGA contribution of $20,000. This amount together with the money provided by OC Administration is making the DAH lift possible.

Nursing Missions

Last spring, Oklahoma Christian sponsored a nursing mission trip for students from OC and two other Oklahoma universities.

Students who had been taking pre-nursing classes spent one week over spring break working with Predisan, a Christian mission dedicated to serving the people of eastern Honduras.

Students attended deliveries, took vital signs, and learned about public health in developing countries. Students rode to community healthcare clinics in four-wheel drive vehicles over barely passable mountain roads.

They drove far into the wilderness to communities where electricity means a single light bulb charged by solar panels during the day … to communities where this single light bulb is a luxury far beyond what most people can afford.

More importantly, they gained an international perspective and shared the gospel with their healing hands.

Since then, OC’s pre-nursing program has launched as a full-fledged bachelor’s degree nursing program with a focus on international and domestic missions.

“Every single one of our classes requires community service. It’s part of our mission statement,” said Linda Fly, director of OC’s nursing program.

Another trip to Honduras is planned this May, and Oklahoma Christian hopes to pursue additional international and domestic nursing mission opportunities. For more information about OC’s nursing program, visit www.oc.edu/nursing. For more info about Mission Predisan, visit www.predisan.org.
The Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association has been shining its light on the Oklahoma Christian University community for 50 years. This past October, the OC community took time to celebrate the organization’s impact on the university. In its history, the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association has donated more than $2 million to Oklahoma Christian University.

In 1955, Stepping Stones was founded by Dr. James Baird. He brought together a group of women in Tulsa and asked for their help in generating funds for the still-fledgling Christian college that had been founded in Bartlesville five years earlier.

These ladies eagerly accepted the challenge and began meeting in 1956 to raise funds. The original concept was that every member of the group would pay $1 in dues and the rest of the money would be raised through fundraising activities.

From the small gathering in Tulsa 50 years ago, the group expanded across the state of Oklahoma, forming chapters in many cities and towns. Every chapter operated independently to determine their fundraising methods and to support campus projects.

When Central Christian College relocated to Oklahoma City, the group’s name was changed to the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association. As OCWA Coordinators, Joy McMillion (1974-1979), Joanne Smith (1979-1989), Becky Durham (1989-2000) and Christine Meredith (2000-present) each have taken the reigns of the organization and done their part to advance the group’s good works.

The coordinator’s job is to stay in contact with each of the chapters. During the October celebration, each of the women had the opportunity to share their memories of this wonderful group and the great things they have accomplished.

When the organization began, the founding members were not alumni of the school, but were women who believed in the importance of Christian higher education. Joy and Christine are both Oklahoma Christian alumni, while Joanne and Becky are parents of OC alumni.

“When OC moved to Oklahoma City, it was nothing more than four brick buildings on a muddy hill,” Joanne remembers. “Now every building on this campus has been affected by OCWA funds.”

During the 1970s, OCWA had 16 chapters in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. The groups gathered once a year at the Roll Call Luncheon to give a report of what each chapter had accomplished in the past year. These gatherings included more than 300 members, all with OC’s best interest at heart.

As more women became a part of the workforce, OCWA saw a shift in the number of women participating in the group. At one time, a pair of chapters specifically for career women met at night to accommodate busy schedules.

The foursome says they know OCWA will more than likely never be what it was in the past. There is no annual Roll Call; women now meet in smaller groups to report their findings. But Joy says the women wouldn’t continue to work as hard as they do if they didn’t believe in the cause.

In the beginning, most of the major projects supported by OCWA aided in campus beautification and needs that went beyond the college’s normal budget. The sign located in the pond that once welcomed people to the OC’s campus was provided with OCWA funds, as was the retaining wall in front of the Mabee Learning Center.

One of the university’s first over-the-road buses was purchased with the help of OCWA funds. The ladies participated in a program that allowed them to collect stamps and exchange them for merchandise.

“We even provided maps for the Bible department. They didn’t have any maps to teach with,” Joy said.

The women also point out the work done by other women such as Sue Vaughn, Jesse Lee Cornell and Lois McCord. None of these women was an official coordinator for the group, but they played a major role in getting OCWA off the ground and helping it make a difference.

One of the most memorable fundraisers was the booth OCWA operated at the Oklahoma State Fair for 25 years. The booth, which took more than 30 people a day to run, would begin serving breakfast at 6 a.m. to the young men who were there as exhibitors.
“It was like we took the places of their mothers while they were at the fair,” Joanne said.

The ladies had a reputation at the fair for serving great stew and beans. Joanne fondly remembers what a great public relations tool the booth was for Oklahoma Christian. It gave people outside the campus community the opportunity to see the type of people who were working at and supporting the school.

When rules and limitations set by the fair began to change and the fair booth was no longer profitable, the group decided to change with the times and look for new ways to accomplish the goals they had for their organization. Instead of fair booths, the OCWA now holds golf tournaments and home tours at Christmas.

Some fundraisers will never go out of style. The bake sales and yard sales are still going on today, as is the annual Ladies Day at the OC lectureship program.

Every year, OCWA has allowed each department to submit a “wish list” for things their budget may not be able to afford. Over the years, the lists have evolved with the times.

Joanne remembered how the business department asked for tabletop calculators for the accounting students. Now the requests have moved on to computers.

More recent projects have included a new intramural field and new equipment for the nursing program that began this past fall. OCWA also played a role in the University House and the updating of the lobby in the Mabee Learning Center.

“It always felt like you got to play Santa Claus,” Joy says of the opportunity to fulfill some of the wishes of the OC students, faculty and staff.

There seems to be no doubt that the love and dedication these women have toward the university will continue for the next 50 years and beyond.

For them, it is not about how much money they raise. It’s about how many young people they have helped obtain a Christian education and how those students will go out and spread the love of God to the world around them.

*by Allison Shumate (05)*
For OC grad Tim Tardibono (94), a routine morning includes a thorough reading of the Combat Meth Act and advising his boss of any potential problems … or reading through opinions of nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tim’s boss, U.S. Senator Tom Coburn from Oklahoma, has a well-deserved reputation on Capitol Hill for a no-nonsense approach to government waste of taxpayers' dollars. As Coburn’s staff counsel, Tim often reflects that approach when dealing with government agencies.

Recently, for example, the House of Representatives introduced a bill for the Environmental Protection Agency requesting $18 million, a fairly modest sum in Washington circles. Neither the House Committee nor the EPA specified the cost estimates for the funds, which prompted Tim to demand an accounting for the full amount.

A hold was placed on the bill until the House Committee or the EPA provided the requested information.

An academician was able to demonstrate that the government’s estimated cost was far too high. The bill was cleared only after the funding amount was reduced by more than two-thirds, saving taxpayers nearly $15 million.

“Sometimes we put a hold on a bill just to get more time to review it,” Tim said from his office in the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. “The way the Senate works, a senator can put a hold on a bill and it requires 60 votes to get the bill moving again. They are starting to look over their shoulders at their spending requests because they know we’re watching.”

Now, staffs at other senators’ offices and government agencies regularly come to Tim and his Coburn colleagues to negotiate before a bill is introduced.

“One of the things we look for in a new bill or an amendment is whether it should be a state or federal issue,” Tim said. “If it is a federal issue, we’ll determine whether the taxpayers’ dollars are being spent efficiently. We will reach an agreement when there is a common benefit for the taxpayer.”

Tim, who holds a law degree and a master's degree in government from Regent University, advises Senator Coburn on legal issues, judiciary, criminal law enforcement, drug enforcement, labor relations, telecommunications, international trade, welfare, election law/campaign finance issues, social service issues and many other areas.

Senator Coburn’s staff numbers approximately 50 people in Washington and Oklahoma. There are eight to 12 people who handle legislation and committee assignments, and another six or seven who write letters on issues. Every letter received from an Oklahoman is reviewed by staff members like Tim.

Tim’s workday, which begins with a 35-minute ride on the Metro from his home in Vienna, Va., can last well into the evening when Congress is in session. He looks forward to recesses when he can spend more time with his wife, Marilyn, and his three children. He has learned to be a better manager of time.

Tim grew up in Bethany/Warr Acres, Okla., and might have followed his brothers to the University of Oklahoma had it not been for the experiences he had at OC Cage Camp.

“I had a really great experience at the OC basketball camps so I decided to give OC a try,” he said. “I really liked the campus and could feel that it was the right environment for me. The Christian influence was a big factor in my decision.”

Tim received a debate scholarship at OC, was in the Chorale, served as Student Senate secretary and was a member of Kappa Sigma Tau.

“The way the Senate works, a senator can put a hold on a bill and it requires 60 votes to get the bill moving again. They are starting to look over their shoulders at their spending requests because they know we’re watching.”

Now, staffs at other senators’ offices and government agencies regularly come to Tim and his Coburn colleagues to negotiate before a bill is introduced.

“One of the things we look for in a new bill or an amendment is whether it should be a state or federal issue,” Tim said. “If it is a federal issue, we’ll determine whether the taxpayers’ dollars are being spent efficiently. We will reach an agreement when there is a common benefit for the taxpayer.”

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Some people complained about having to go to Chapel every day, but looking back on it, for me it was a nice break and I could relax and gather my thoughts and focus on God,” he said.

After graduating from OC in December 1993, Tim worked in retail until he saved enough money to attend law school.

After graduating from Regent University School of Law in Virginia, Tim returned to Oklahoma. He worked for the Department of Health and Human Services during Governor Frank Keating’s administration and later practiced law. He joined Coburn’s staff in March 2005.

Tim said Marilyn was excited when she heard that Tom Coburn had decided to run for the Senate and encouraged Tim to apply for a staff job because “he could work for someone he respected.”

Tim plans to work for Senator Coburn until Tim hears a new calling.

“The Beltway is not an easy place to raise a family and the lure of making lots of money as a lobbyist is enticing,” Tim said.

“But I think we are making a real difference and God has shown Himself faithful. It’s nice to know both you and your boss feel called to the same task.”

by Ron Frost
Families Team Up to Spread the Word

Oklahoma Christian has been sending students on its Vienna Studies program for more than two decades.

More than 750 OC students have had THE experience of a semester based in the Austrian city that is famous for its art, music, cuisine and for being the cultural hub of Europe. Every year, many of them insist they’ll return.

Now, a team of four OC alumni couples are doing just that … as full-time missionaries in Vienna.

The team members are Jake and Amanda Haskew, Josh and Kim Hensel, Ira and Kari Lockwood, and Brian and Alisha Rusher and their children.

Three of them, Josh, Kari and Ira, were on the 1999 Vienna Studies Program. Their degrees range from mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and information systems to liberal studies, advertising design, English, education and ministry. Their education and experiences will help them as they embark on a multi-year commitment to spread the word of God in Vienna.

The Vienna Team’s main sponsor is Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. After working in secular jobs, team members have transitioned to full-time ministry with Memorial Road for hands-on ministry experience before their planned departure at the end of June.

“We will be a new church plant in District 22 and we are going to strengthen, encourage and fellowship with the existing churches in Vienna. We want to reach out to the large number of young professionals living in this district and plant a church that will continue to evangelize the city after we leave,” Ira Lockwood said.

In this city of nearly two million people, almost 27 percent of them reported “no religion” on a 2001 census. Almost half of the population says it is Catholic while nearly eight percent claim to be Muslim.

The team members’ heart for the lost is conveyed in their latest newsletter, which seeks to explain their strategy: “The most important reason for our moving to Vienna is that the people in that city need the Gospel of Jesus. There is, though, a strategic significance to Vienna that is not lost upon the members of our team or our sponsoring churches. It is our desire to see Christianity grow through the entire continent, and Vienna is the type of city that can ignite such a church-planting movement.”

“We have fallen in love with the city,” Ira said. “More than just loving the city and all the neat places, we have a love for the people of the city and a desire to serve them any way we can. Our hope is that some day, foreign studies students will come and visit our members or share in the ministry, and they will grasp a vision for evangelizing the city of Vienna or the nation of Austria, or maybe Europe in general.”

For the hundreds of OC Vienna Studies alumni who love to reminisce about long afternoons at Schonbrunn Palace and Stephansdom … or sipping melange at a café … or enjoying sacre torte at the Imperial Palace, Vienna sounds like a perfect spot for mission work.

“We do look forward to enjoying Bizi Pizza and Tichy Eis, but we mostly look forward to seeing the lives of many Austrians changed forever by the message of Christ,” Ira said.

Read more about the Vienna Team at www.ViennaTeam.org.

by Dawn Shelton (90)
There seems to be a coffee place on every corner. People start their days with the usual tall, decaf, non-fat latte or they just can’t seem to get their day going.

One alumni couple is hoping to turn people’s love for coffee into an opportunity to help spread the love of God.

Heavenly Harvest Coffee produces and sells a high-quality gourmet coffee and uses all the proceeds to evangelize, edify and equip the people of Nicaragua.

Mission Nicaragua began cultivating its vision in 2005 with the relocation of missionaries David and Kim Romero. David had worked in Nicaragua before, and he and Kim wondered what it would be like to grow a crop and a church, with each supporting the other while reaching out to the countless poor and unchurched.

The 120-acre farm employs seven year-round workers and up to 40 more during the harvest season. The relationships David and Kim form with the workers give them another opportunity to spread the word of God.

Both David and Kim have specific responsibilities on the farm and in the local church. David serves as the farm’s administrator. He is in charge of the farm’s day-to-day workings along with its long-term goals. He preaches and teaches at the local congregation along with leading the benevolence work.

Kim serves as the accountant for both the farm and the church. She also coordinates the children’s ministry and teaches a ladies’ Bible class.

“We have something with the church every day, whether it is a ladies’ day, a prayer group or a home church meeting,” Kim said.

The couple met at the Brown Trail School of Preaching before both moved on to Oklahoma Christian to complete their degrees. David holds a degree in missions while Kim’s degree is in accounting and vocational ministry.

When the couple first arrived in Nicaragua, the church was approximately 70 members and has now grown to 120. David had a Spanish tutor for three months before the couple left. They both continue to use the Bible to learn more of the native language.

“We are definitely still working on the language,” Kim said.

Kim says their transition was much easier than she expected because Nicaragua has such a strong culture. The couple had originally planned to be in Nicaragua for three to five years to get the project off the ground and running, but Kim says they now believe they will spend the rest of their lives on the mission field.

For more information about supporting Heavenly Harvest or to order coffee online, visit www.heavenlyharvestcoffee.com.

Every Girl’s Dream

Most little girls dream of a fairytale wedding day. They also dream of what they want to look like when they walk down the aisle.

And whether they’ve always wanted to look like a princess or a movie star from the 40s, OC alumna Saundra (Umholtz 98) Traywick tries to make their dreams come true.
The path that she follows from concept to dress is very important to Saundra. After being contacted by a bride, there is an initial meeting so she can get the feel of the bride and her style.

Saundra brings sample boards that are filled with a wide variety of dress styles. Once the bride picks out what she thinks she wants in a dress, Saundra will sketch out multiple dresses for the bride to choose from. The bride then chooses her gown and a mock gown is created out of muslin to make sure it is exactly what the bride is hoping for. Oklahoman artisans then sew the dresses.

“I don’t sew,” joked Saundra.

The details are what make each of the dresses created by D’Plazzo unique. Whether a bride wants beads and crystals all over the dress or “I Love You” embroidered across the front (which D’Plazzo did for one bride), Saundra wants the dress to reflect the bride.

The company tries to incorporate faith into the business as much as possible, and Saundra says she prays for inspiration when she designs a gown. Saundra and Debra are being featured in an upcoming issue of Guideposts, a Christian publication that has a larger circulation than O magazine.

With a price tag of $1,500 and more per dress, Saundra works hard to make sure the bride is completely satisfied. The company can work with up to 10 brides a month. Most of the time, the process begins six to eight months before the wedding day.

Oklahoma may not seem like a hub for couture fashion, but Saundra says you don’t have to be located in New York City to have great design. Staying local allows D’Plazzo to keep operating costs down. Saundra is even open to traveling to the bride so she can create her dream dress.

D’Plazzo has joined other wedding professionals in the area to create the Edmond Wedding Society. The purpose is to bring together experts in all areas of wedding planning to simplify the process for the bride. The group will be part of a show in April at the Gaillardia Country Club.

For more information about D’Plazzo, visit the company’s website at dplazzo.com.

**BUCKLED IN FOR A CAREER JOYRIDE**

Beam’s Industries called him first. With his hard-earned mechanical engineering degree in hand, Mike Bosley had three job offers that week. He took the Beam’s job, but jokes he likely would have taken anything that offered a steady paycheck.

That was in 1995. Mike started as a staff engineer a couple of weeks after his graduation. Today, he’s president of the Oklahoma City-based seatbelt company that does business all over the world through Asia, Australia, Europe and South America.

“Beam’s Industries is an innovative company and I’ve been in love with it from my first day there. We aren’t perfect, but we are always getting better,” he said.

“Last year, we were ranked as one of the ‘Top 25 Best Places to Work in Oklahoma.’ It is paramount to create a positive work environment where people are valued individually. Our main motivation must always be to show God’s love through the company and make our workplace one of ministry wherever possible. There is no part of our business that is ‘off-limits’ to God.”

Mike says his undergraduate experience in OC’s mechanical engineering program prepared him well. He went on to earn his MBA from Oklahoma Christian in 2002.

“Our engineering professors taught us how to apply faith in our discipline and to think critically and solve problems. They also taught us how to communicate both orally and in writing,” he said. “I thoroughly enjoyed my MBA classes and consider those classes critical to my ever-growing understanding of businesses and how they operate both for profit and for good.”

Beam’s Industries was founded by Tom and Ada Beam, for whom the OC Library is named. Part of what defines Beam’s as an internationally successful company is its commitment to authenticity through its management and through prayer.

“Our owners, Frank Smith (CFO) and Ted Merritt (VP), always ensure we use the business as a ministry whenever and wherever possible,” Mike said. “Frank always reminds us about the value of praying for the business. We pray for success not solely as a means to profit but as a means to employ more people in a good environment. We don’t live to earn a profit but we must earn a profit to stay in business and provide good jobs for people.”

Another unique aspect about Beam’s is its open-book management.

“This means that all employees throughout the company see the same financial statements that the owners and senior management see. Individual salaries are not shared, but all other information regarding how the company makes and spends money is presented to the entire workforce,” he said.

Employees huddle twice each month to talk about revenue, expenses, and profitability. The company employs anywhere from 60 to 75 people depending on the season, at least 10 of whom are OC graduates or have children at OC.

In addition to being president of a company, a husband to Dana (Bridgewater), and father to Noah (5) and Katie (2), Mike is now an active volunteer with Junior Achievement. He teaches a personal finance class at a local high school.

He’s also very involved in his congregation, Edmond Church of Christ, where he is a deacon and teaches middle school Bible classes. And he stays connected to his alma mater.

“OC is a hugely important part of our lives,” he said. “The biggest growth period of my Christian faith occurred while I was at, and because of, Oklahoma Christian.”
**1956**  
**Freddy and Molly Lemmons (Rogers)** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January. Both retired, Molly has taken on a new career: professional storyteller and author. An award-winning author of two books, she takes her stories wherever inspirational, humorous and nostalgic stories are needed. Website: http://mollyloubelle.com.

**1966**  
**Dr. Edwin Harless** was recently appointed to serve on the North Carolina Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists Board of Examiners. Harless is the chief audiologist at the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Winston-Salem, NC.

**1969**  
**Meredith Trayler Napier** received the Master of Arts in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University’s Graduate School of Education and Psychology last July. She also was named Teacher of the Year for Lemoore Union High School District in Lemoore, CA.

**1973**  
**Joyce and Kurt Swanson’s** family traveled to the United Kingdom last summer. Their son, Stephen, was interviewed in front of the London Science Museum by the BBC for an educational program.

**1974**  
**Tom Keener** won two red ribbons in the bread baking contest at the 2006 State Fair of Texas. Tom has won nine blue ribbons in 10 years of competition.

**Tony Sellars** has been named Director of Communications for Feed The Children, an international relief agency based in Oklahoma City. He is in charge of the television and public relations departments. Tony and his wife, Melissa, have two children: Evan, a first-grade student at Nichols Hills Elementary, and Pirie, a student at Erna Krouch Preschool.

**1976**  
**Dr. LeAnna Hale** has accepted a position at Abilene Christian University as an Assistant Professor of Education. Her new job includes teaching pre-service reading teachers as well as serving as director of the Reading Clinic.

**1978**  
**Kevin and Tammy Bullard** moved to Andrews, TX, in July 2006. Kevin is the preaching minister for Andrews Church of Christ.

**Mike Arnold** recently was promoted to president of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services in Houston, TX.

**1982**  
**Bob Perry** recently published “The Broken Statue,” a fictional novel about the early oil boom in Ponca City, OK. This is Perry’s third book, but his first work of fiction. Other books include “Dynamic Thinking: Models for Organizational Leadership” and “Spiritual Renewal: Transforming the Mind.”

**1984**  
**Nyla (Oser) Hackett** and children, JT, Kristen and Timothy, have moved to their new home at 2413 Pinon Place, Edmond, OK 73013.

**1986**  
**Elizabeth (Payne) Walker** was promoted to information systems analyst staff at Lockheed Martin in October 2006. She will celebrate her 20th year with the company in February. Her husband **Bill (86)** and children William and Abigail reside at 2310 Prince John, Grand Prairie, TX 75050.

**1987**  
**Jack Hardcastle** was recently named president of the National Association of Family Ministers (NAFM), an organization dedicated to the family ministry professional. For more info on the organization, go to www.familymin.org. Jack is the family minister for the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Abilene, TX.

**1988**  
**Eric Crawford** has joined Molecular Pathology Laboratory Network as an associate director of cytogenetics. He and his wife, Christina, have two children: Seth (6) and Adeline (2). Address: 1850 Southcliff Drive, Maryville, TN 37803.

**1996**  
**Bud (56) and Mary Rawlins** are happy to announce their January 11 marriage at the Hemphill County Courthouse in Canadian, TX. They reside at 811 Bungalow Avenue, Canadian, TX, 79014. Email: budhere79014@yahoo.com.

**1999**  
**Rick Prugh** has been installed as an elder with the Salem Church of Christ in Salem, MO.

**2004**  
**Paul Goddard** received the 2005-06 Jewell Sisson Award for Employee of the Year at Harding Academy of Memphis. He serves as dean of students and has been with Harding Academy since 1983.

**2006**  
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VISION SPRING 2007

The Crawford Family

Mark Parker was recently named assistant vice president of the Harding University Graduate School of Religion. He oversees enrollment management, resource management and communications in this new role.

Lyndal Weaver has accepted the head men’s golf/assistant varsity baseball coaching position at Richardson High School in Richardson, TX. His wife, Kristi (Jones 87), is employed at Hamilton Park Elementary in Richardson as a REACH teacher. They have two children: Lyndsey (17) and Chase (15).

The Lawrence Family

Wade Lawrence was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He is assigned to the Pentagon. He and his wife Landa (92) and children Grayson and Sierra live in Stafford, VA.

Dennis F. Qualls has taken a new job as sports coordinator for the City of Mustang Parks and Recreation Department. Dennis and his wife, Kimberley (Simmons 91), and daughter Brooke and son Drew reside in Edmond, where Kim teaches at Angie Debo Elementary School.

1992

Jason P. Hunt has produced a short film to be showcased on the SciFi Channel. “Species Felis Dominarus,” produced by Hunt with his wife Toi (Devin), is a finalist in the “Exposure” contest. It will air later this month or in early March.

Chuck and Rhonda (Smith 90) Rosenbaum announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Leigh, on November 13, 2006. She joins her brother, Benjamin, and sisters, Elizabeth and Abby. Email: rosenbaumr@lpisd.org.

1993

Chad Routon received his master of arts degree in marriage and family therapy from Southern Christian University on August 11, 2006.

Greg and Verena Senter announce the birth of Sabrina Alexandra Senter on May 27, 2006. She’s the younger sister to brother Nicolas (born 7/21/04). Greg is a product engineering section manager for Texas Instruments Wireless RFCMOS business, where he’s worked for more than 15 years.

1994

Nathan and Tammy (Umholtz 96) Manlove announce the birth of their son, Hudson James, on October 30, 2005. Nathan and Tammy own and operate Ammo Advertising in New Braunfels, TX. Address: 1110 Stonewall, New Braunfels, TX 78130. Email: nathan@ammoadvertising.com and tammy@ammoadvertising.com.

1995

David and Sarah (Thompson 95) Minor now reside in Hot Springs, AR, with their three boys: Weston (8), Garrett (6), and Kyle (1). Sarah is an emergency physician and homeschooling mom. David is a computer programmer.

1996

Randy and Nikki (Harmon) Cottingham opened their own business in August. Their services include embroidery, garment printing, vinyl graphics, company ID tags, banners, signs and much more.

Michael and Mandy Flaming announce the birth of Tatum Kate Flaming on May 18, 2006. She has one big sister, Olivia Rose (3). Michael works as a civil engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation. Address: 825 Piedmont Dr., Abilene, TX 79601.

1997

Dave and Elaine (Craig 97) Coleman announce the birth of their new daughter, Elise Mariah Coleman, born on December 23, 2006. Dave is an engineer in Ft. Worth, TX. Elaine has her doctorate for teaching anatomy and physiology. Email: dnecoleman@hotmail.com.
Milestones

Scott (97) and Kara (Stamper 93) Corley welcomed a son, Jackson Thomas, on November 16, 2006. He joins big sisters Kinley (5) and Rylee (3).

Pamela (Skraastad) and David Journey (94) announce the birth of Tulle Kirsten Journey on February 7, 2006. Three months after Tulle’s birth, Pamela received her masters of science in marriage and family therapy from Harding University.

Melinda (Flanary) Johnson wed Tyrel Johnson at Camp Tahkodah on April 15, 2006. Melinda graduated with a masters of science in marriage and family therapy from Harding University on July 29, 2006. She and Tyrel live in Searcy, AR, and work for Harding.

Heather Kitchen graduated with a masters of library and information studies from the University of Oklahoma in December 2006. She lives in Oklahoma City.

Jesse and Amy McCracken proudly announce the birth of twin daughters Sierra LeeAnn (6 lbs., 7 oz.) and Addison Gail (5 lbs., 5 oz.) on January 7, 2007.

Saundra (Umholtz) Traywick is co-owner and designer for D’Plazzo, a couture wedding gown company based in Edmond, OK. Saundra began designing wedding gowns when she designed her own for her marriage to Walt Traywick in May 2004. Website: www.dplazzo.com. Email: saundra@dplazzo.com.

Wes and Amy Wilson celebrated the birth of their daughter Rachel Claire on March 28, 2006. They live in Plano, TX. Wes is an applications engineer for Eagle Test Systems and Amy is a physical therapist at Medical Center of Plano.

1998

Jason and Lindsey Anderson are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Gillian, born on November 19, 2006. She has one older brother, Patriot (2).

Casey (Riley) Batson has finished nursing school at OSU-Oklahoma City and will be taking licensure soon. She lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Kevin, and children Chloe (4) and Kyle (2).

Melinda (Flanary) Johnson wed Tyrel Johnson at Camp Tahkodah on April 15, 2006. Melinda graduated with a masters of science in marriage and family therapy from Harding University.

1999

Aaron and Carrie (Cosgrove 00) Ackerman announce the birth of their son, Ty Aaron on August 30, 2006. The proud sister is Ryan Elizabeth (4). Aaron is the controller for Griffin Communications in Oklahoma City and Carrie is an adjunct professor in OC’s art and design department.

Dave and Caryn (Hale) Blanchard are pleased to announce the birth of Micah John Blanchard on December 19, 2006. Micah joins sister Lily (5) and brother Elijah (2). The Blanchards live in Abilene, TX, where Dave is working on his master of divinity degree. Email: lilypad7@yahoo.com.

Randy and Brianna Carroll announce the birth of their third child, Alexander Davis, on April 30. He joins Olivia (4) and Christopher (3). They live in Dresden, Germany. Website: www.carrollchronicles.net.

Gary and Liliya McCoy announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Michelle, on October 24, 2006. She joins big brother, Cadon John, on April 26, 2006. She has one big sister, Katherine Nicole (3).

Randon and Andrea (Johnson 99) Rieger announce the birth of their daughter, Kelsy Ann, on May 10, 2006. She joins big brother Braden (3). They live in Andover, KS. Sarah is the children’s minister at East Point Church of Christ. Chris is the head tennis coach at Wichita State University, where he was recently named the national winner of the United States Tennis Association and Intercollegiate Tennis Association Community Service Award.

2000

Jennifer (Boiles) and Curt (97) Coffman announce the birth of their twin, Cohen Curtis and Teegin Jane, born December 29, 2006. They join proud big brother Carsten (3).

In August, Melody McCoy started her first teaching job at Collinsville Middle School. She teaches seventh-grade math and eighth-grade pre-algebra.

Patrick and Myra (McCrary) Moran announce the birth of their daughter, Morgandy Skye, on October 26, 2006.

Chris and Susan Peters announce the birth of Michael Patrick Peters on May 5, 2006. The proud grandparents are OC alumni Pat...
(76) and Carolyn (75) Peters of Clinton.

Melissa Price is an operating room nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in College Station, TX. Address: 3314 Timberline Dr., Bryan, TX 77803. Email: melissanprice25@yahoo.com.

Joy Rainey was chosen as the outstanding graduate student in her department for her graduating class. She will be graduating this spring with a master’s degree in guidance and counseling.

2001

Bryan and Candice Herken proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Lara Elisabeth Anne. She was born December 8, 2006. She joins big brother Ethan (1).

Michael and Jennifer (Umholtz) Maline announce the birth of their son, Ethan Michael, on June 20, 2006. She joins big brother Ethan (1).

2003

Adam Lunceford married Kristen Byron on July 13, 2006. The wedding was held at the Evergreen Lake Lodge in the Rocky Mountains of Denver. Adam works as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch and Kristen works as an elementary teacher at Hyland Christian School.

Lucas and Aubrie (Lasheley 04) Ross were married on April 8, 2006, at OC’s McIntosh Conservatory. They live in Edmond, OK. Lucas works for Skyline Media, Inc., as a writer producer. Aubrie is a wedding coordinator.

2004

Jamie and Randy Miller announce the birth of Lillie Jean Miller on November 28, 2006. Lillie is their first child.

Jeremy and Amanda (McBroom) Pierce have returned from a two-year missionary experience in Italy. They live in Midwest City, OK, where Amanda is working as an elementary school teacher. Jeremy is working part-time at a credit union while furthering his education. Address: 6239 E. Reno Apt. F, Midwest City, OK 73110. Email: JAPierce@gmail.com.

2005

Bradley and Jessica (Magee) Starling purchased their first home in June. They live in Edmond with children, Ruth (3) and Matthew (1). Address: 3712 Princeton Ave., Edmond, OK 73034.

2006

Jeremy Jacoby and Lauren Vanhooser were married May 12, 2006. Jeremy is the new car sales manager at Bob Howard Toyota and Lauren is pursuing a career in medicine.

Adam Langford

OC alumnus Adam Langford was killed in a car accident in Uganda, East Africa, on Jan. 16. He was 28 years old.

A 2001 OC graduate, Adam was the brother of OC alumni Ben and Jon Langford. He had worked alongside Ben as a missionary in Jinja, Uganda, for the past year.

“Adam was a creative, energetic and compassionate person. He will be missed by his OC family of faculty, staff and alumni,” OC dean of students Neil Arter said. “He died doing what he wanted to do, and that was serving the Lord that he loved. Adam will be missed by his OC family. We’ll always remember the efforts he made to live for heaven.”

Adam is survived by his parents, Terry and Kathy Langford of Edmond; brother Ben and wife Kym and their son Eli of Jinja, Uganda; brother Jonathan and wife Leta of Kansas City; grandmother Joan Laird of Edmond; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, teammates and friends.

Sally Royse married Jonathan Pinon on August 5, 2006. Sally recently graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with her master’s degree in communication. She now serves as a faculty member in the communication department at UT-Arlington. Sally and Jonathan live in Mansfield, TX.

Mark Triplett and Lindsay Grove were married August 12, 2006, at Northside Church of Christ in Wichita. They now live in Andover and work in Wichita.

Carly (Graham) and Jared Harris were married on August 12, 2006. Carly is in her second year of graduate school at the University of Central Oklahoma and works at The Children’s Place at Integris Baptist. Jared is finishing his degree at UCO and working for Cox Communications.

To contribute to the Adam Langford Memorial Leadership Scholarship, send your contribution to: OC Office of Advancement, P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136 or call (405) 425-5094.

Donations also may be made to: The Jinja Mission Fund via East County Church of Christ, 24375 SE Stark, Gresham, Oregon 97030. For more information, go to www.jinjamissions.org or call (503) 666-8485.
Classes taught on OC’s Oklahoma City campus can now be attended simultaneously 1,500 miles away on the Cascade College campus in Portland (or vice versa) thanks to OC’s new synchronous interactive distance learning system.

OC and Cascade faculty began using the new system this spring. Two classes are using the system initially, with plans to add many more.

One of the system’s major benefits is that it allows the two campuses to share scarce resources, particularly specialized faculty. There is capacity for 30-35 students in each classroom.

The system uses the latest in interactive videoconferencing technology, according to John Hermes, OC’s director of computer and network services.

The system features a point-to-point internet connection utilizing a T-1 broadband link. A live picture of the other classroom is projected onto the rear wall of the host classroom so faculty can better interact with the students on the other campus.

Video cameras capture graphics, hard copies of materials, photos and more. Microphones on the ceilings clearly pick up questions from students.

“The quality of the video and audio is amazing,” Hermes said. “The voice and video transmission are instant. This enables the teacher in Oklahoma City and students in Portland to establish a better connection because they can see and hear each other in real time. Older videoconferencing systems, particularly those that used traditional telephone technologies, had a slight delay so effective communication was difficult.”

Compared to hiring additional faculty or paying for travel, the system is very cost effective, Hermes said.

Oklahoma Christian’s IT Services Office already has received requests for additional classes and Hermes anticipates getting even more requests as word gets out.

“The International Programs Office is very interested in how it can help them communicate with participants on both campuses,” Hermes said. “It will be popular for a lot of other uses such as professional development. There is tremendous potential for this system.”

by Ron Frost
THE 4th ANNUAL MIKE MCDONALD
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For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 405.425.6110 or visit www.oc.edu/funrun.

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QUEST: EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CHURCH

Oklahoma Christian will host Quest, a highly-participative, interactive summit on ministry effectiveness and leadership in local churches, May 31 through June 2.

Quest tracks include: The Missional Church, Local Church Evangelism, Marriage and Family, Equipping Members for Ministry, Biblical Text, and sessions for teens and children ages 6 to 12 on Friday night.

There will be several activities in addition to the major tracks: keynote speakers, times of praise and worship, concerts, and an open forum, “Churches of Christ: Who Are We?”

For more information, contact John Harrison at 405.425.5377 or go to www.oc.edu/quest.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ‘OC ROAD SHOW’

The “OC Road Show” is a new program designed to promote Oklahoma Christian to prospective students around the country. Prospective students and parents are invited to learn more about Oklahoma Christian and to meet other students interested in our alma mater.

Road show hosts will provide a tremendous resource to Oklahoma Christian by helping ensure students from their area are learning about the advantages of an OC education.

To host a road show, contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@oc.edu or at 405.425.5110.

OC STUDENTS NAMED TO WHO’S WHO

Ninety-two OC students were selected for the 2007 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory selected the students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

The elite group of students comes from more than 2,000 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

OC Launches Literacy Program

Students majoring in teaching English as a foreign language started “Literacy Lunches” in April as part of the Oklahoma Christian Literacy Program.

Tutors help members of OC’s custodial staff with listening, speaking, reading and writing during two lunch periods each week, said Gail Nash, assistant professor of English.

At first, OC students taught the classes, but now they are training volunteers from within the university community to be tutors.

The university’s literacy program also has an off-campus branch at Capitol Hill Church of Christ. Accounting sophomore Scott Simpson said he is coordinating the project because he’s interested in teaching English in another country.

Nash said students also can train volunteers for other organizations that have literacy programs. Volunteers don’t need to know the language of the people they are teaching, she said.

“Most people are totally overwhelmed with what to do with a non-native speaker,” Nash said.

The literacy programs were the vision of Scott LaMascus, the former chair of OC’s language and literature department. Nash said LaMascus wanted students who mostly grew up in English literate homes to learn about people who didn’t and to help them as part of their Christian service.

Oklahoma Christian is one of only a few universities that offer a bachelor’s degree in teaching English as a foreign language. Nash said OC students can have an undergraduate degree and practical experience through coordinating the literacy programs before they seek a master’s degree.

OC’s literacy programs are funded with help from the university and grants from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and The Bowers Foundation.

Students Honored at Global Vision Dinner

OC students who participated on the 2006 summer Vienna Studies program, the fall Vienna Studies program, the Ibaraki Exchange program, and the Pacific Rim Studies program recently gathered for OC’s inaugural Global Vision Dinner.

The purpose of this dinner is to provide a post-trip experience for all students to meet and relive their experiences.

“It is a time to celebrate being together,” Director of International Programs John Osborne said.

While serving to deepen learning and help with reverse culture shock, Osborne and the international programs staff hope the gathering also will help students think about how to extend their learning into new responsibilities in serving others.

The McCormack scholarship, awarded to students who showed excellence in learning while on the overseas program, went to one recipient from each 2006 group. The recipients were Ryan Stephenson (Summer Vienna), Travis Hughes (Fall Vienna) and Emily Hicks (Pacific Rim).

A panel consisting of the vice president for academic affairs, the director of international programs, and the program faculty sponsor selected those students on the basis of four qualifications: excellence in academics, a Christ-like attitude in the service-learning and mission aspects of the program, servant-leadership among their peers, and the extent to which they took advantage of their experience.
OC RECEIVES $60,000 DONATION

The Butterfield Memorial Foundation has awarded $60,000 to Oklahoma Christian to provide scholarships for pre-nursing students.

The Butterfield Foundation, headquartered in Oklahoma City, is a Christian organization dedicated to serving the health needs of the community.

“This generous gift provides a welcome boost to our new nursing program,” OC president Dr. Mike O’Neal said. “This gift enables many more students to obtain a nursing degree and help ease the critical shortage of nurses in our community. OC nursing students not only receive a comprehensive, faith-based education, they participate in many mission works in needy countries like Honduras.”

OC launched a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing this fall to address the nationwide shortage of nurses and to give its students the opportunity to receive a four-year degree at the university.

Previously, OC nursing students had to transfer to another university after two years to obtain their bachelor’s degree. There are 84 freshmen, sophomores and juniors currently enrolled in the nursing program.

PROFESSOR’S BOOK TAKES NEW APPROACH TO BIBLE

Professor of Communication Philip Patterson has taken a new approach to the daily Bible reading concept.

Patterson’s latest book, “The Greatest Stories of the Bible,” isn’t the typical one-year Bible. Rather than promising the entire biblical text, Patterson has extracted 365 of the Bible’s most relevant stories and combined them with his own commentary, daily devotional questions and a prayer.

The book, published by Thomas Nelson Publishing, was released in November. The book is available at Amazon.com or at local Christian bookstores.

Patterson has authored several other titles based on devotion, including the recent “Living Stones,” a book based on the stories of the Bible, but told in a modern-day context.

OC INITIATES ‘EXECUTIVE CONVERSATIONS’

Oklahoma Christian recently launched a new program designed to allow top students and OC’s leadership team to learn from some of the finest leaders in Oklahoma.

“Executive Conversations” features business and civic leaders from Oklahoma City and surrounding areas who periodically meet on the OC campus with small groups of students, faculty and staff.

Former Kerr-McGee chairman and chief executive officer Luke Corbett was the inaugural speaker for the program.

The second event featured Larry Nichols (pictured), chairman and chief executive officer of Devon Energy Corporation.

Tom A. Hill, president and chairman of Kimray Inc., delivered the most recent “Executive Conversations” presentation.

“We’re excited about the opportunity for our outstanding business students and our campus management to hear from executives of other organizations about what has helped them be successful,” OC president Dr. Mike E. O’Neal said. “These will be excellent opportunities for us to hone our leadership skills and to learn from some of the best.”

OC PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH LEGAL MUSIC DOWNLOADING PROGRAM

OC students now have free and legal access to more than 2.1 million songs through the Ruckus Network.

The service is now available at six Oklahoma schools including Oklahoma Christian, the University of Central Oklahoma, East Central University, Northeastern State University, the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma, and Western Oklahoma State College. Any student with an e-mail address from a participating school may sign up for the service.

In addition to Ruckus’ music library, there are a limited number of movie titles available for download along with social networking features that allow students to share music selections with their friends.

The service is made possible through OC’s Internet service provider, One Net.
HAYS WINS 500TH GAME AT OC

Oklahoma Christian opened the season in November with a win over Oklahoma Wesleyan in the annual Homecoming game. But it wasn't just any win; it was the 500th win of Coach Dan Hays' career with the Eagles.

“This is the most special milestone of my career because it has come at one place,” Hays said. “I’m not really big on statistics, but this is something I’m proud of.”

Hays, who took over the OC men's basketball program in 1984, is the winningest coach in school history. With three games left in the regular season, Hays was 513-268 with the Eagles for a winning percentage of .657. He has won more than 650 games in his overall coaching career.

Hays has coached OC to six conference titles and led the Eagles to 20 wins in 16 of the past 22 seasons. Besides his on-court success, more than 90 percent of the seniors in his program have completed their degrees.


30TH YEAR BRINGS MILESTONE WIN

The Lady Eagles’ 64-63 win over Central Oklahoma on Nov. 17 was the 600th all-time by the OC women's basketball program.

Max Dobson went 173-80 in eight years as head coach. Stephanie Findley, who played and served as an assistant under Dobson, was 442-249 with three regular-season games left in her 22nd year as OC's coach.

This is the 30th season of Lady Eagle basketball. OC has won six Sooner Athletic Conference championships plus a state title in the old Oklahoma Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

The Lady Eagles will make their 12th trip to the NAIA national tournament this year. To get the latest updates from basketball and all of OC's athletic news, go to www.oceagles.com.

STROHMAN TO COACH CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

One of the best athletes in OC history has returned to his alma mater as head coach of OC's cross country teams.

Former All-American Wayne Strohman is just the fourth head coach in the 43-year history of OC's cross country programs, following Ray Vaughn, Sr., Tom Hibbits and Randy Heath.

Heath, who has led the cross country program for the last 38 years, remains as OC's track and field head coach. The OC and NAIA Hall of Famer was named Sooner Athletic Conference Women's Track and Field Coach of the Year last season, the latest of 11 conference or region coaching honors he has earned in his career.

Strohman takes over a cross country program that won 12 men's and five women's titles in NAIA District IX during Heath's 38-year tenure (21 with the women's program). The OC men's cross country team finished in the NAIA top 15 the past two seasons and the women's team was a top-15 team in 2005.

Strohman was a five-time All-American at OC. He earned the honor in cross country in 1992 and 1993, in indoor track and field in 1993 and 1994, and in outdoor track and field in 1994. Oklahoma Christian inducted the Casper, Wyo., native into its Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004.

“I am honored, thankful and excited to return to OC, lead our cross country teams, work with Coach Heath and give back to the university I hold in such high regard,” Strohman said. “We will train smart and hard, race smart and fast, and have fun as we strive to have premier cross country and track and field programs.”

GOLF TEAM RANKED NO. 1

OC’s golf team claimed the No. 1 position in the NAIA fall poll and in the spring preseason poll.

The Eagles also earned the top spot in the GCAA/Bridgestone Coaches Poll. During the fall competition, Oklahoma Christian captured three tournament championships and placed second in another. OC won the Bill Ross Intercollegiate Tournament in Kansas City, Mo., the Chick-Fil-A Berry College Classic in Rome, Ga., and its own Sleep Inn & Suites Classic in Edmond.

Under Coach David Lynn, the Eagles have a current streak of seven top-four finishes in the NAIA national tournament, including runnerup finishes in 2001 and 2005.
SOCCER TEAMS HAVE STELLAR SEASONS

For the first time in OC history, both the men’s and women’s soccer teams qualified for the NAIA national tournament in the same year.

The Lady Eagles went undefeated during the regular season en route to their third Sooner Athletic Conference title and a best-ever 17-2-2 record.

“We knew early on that we had one of the most talented groups of athletes ever at OC, but I don’t think we entirely anticipated what a successful season we would have,” first-year head coach Sean O’Connor said.

Junior Taryn Caylor and freshman Stephanie Duncan earned NAIA All-America honorable mention. Juniorin Kristin Brown and Cassie Tyler were recognized as NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Freshmen Kacie Hoppe and Heather Spencer joined Brown and Duncan on the Sooner Athletic Conference first team. Hoppe was named Newcomer of the Year and O’Connor was named Coach of the Year.

Despite a first-round loss at nationals, 2006 ranked as the most successful season in the 13 years of the women’s soccer program.

The men’s soccer team enjoyed one of its best seasons ever and advanced to the NAIA “Elite Eight” for the first time in program history.

The Eagles went 12-5-2 and were ranked No. 12 in the final poll. In addition to their second national tournament appearance, athletes received national and conference honors and first-year coach David Scott was named the SAC Coach of the Year.

Junior Adam Barnes and seniors Matt Clark and Brady Nikkel earned All-America honorable mention. Barnes also earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Clark was selected Co-Offensive Player of the Year in the SAC. Joining Clark on the SAC first team were Barnes and freshman Cristian Fernandes, who also was named to the NAIA all-tournament team.

Clark, a four-time NAIA All-America, concluded his career as OC’s all-time leader with 71 goals and 162 points.

HUGGENS EARNs ALL-AMERICA HONORS

OC senior Kate Hudgens earned All-American honors and the Eagles placed 15th in the men’s division of the NAIA National Cross Country Championships in November. Hudgens placed 29th in the women’s field of 255 runners to earn her first NAIA All-America distinction.

The OC men’s team finished 15th in the 28-team field with 393 points. The Eagles, who came into the national meet ranked 21st, defeated eight teams ranked higher in the final NAIA poll.

OC BENEFITS FROM FALL SUCCESS

In the early-season reports, Oklahoma Christian ranks fourth on the NAIA list of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Sports Academy Directors’ Cup standings.

The first listing included the soccer and cross country seasons. Both the men’s and women’s soccer teams earned berths to the NAIA national tournament, with the Eagles advancing to the “Elite Eight.”

In men’s cross country, the Eagles placed 15th nationally as a team.

TEAMS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

The Lady Eagle basketball team conducts a weekly fitness activity at Washington Irving Elementary School in Edmond. Every Friday morning, Coach Stephanie Findley and members of the OC team go to run, jog and exercise with students at Washington Irving.

“We’re trying to do our part to encourage the students to get involved in the physical activity,” Lady Eagle head coach Stephanie Findley said.

The team has worked with Shana Classen, one of the physical education teachers at Washington Irving, to coordinate the project. Classen played basketball at OC from 1996 to 1999.

The service project is just the latest for the Lady Eagles. The women’s basketball program is a longtime partner with Habitat For Humanity.

The team also participated in September’s American Cancer Society Relay for Life in honor of former faculty member Kim Gaither. The event raised $16,000.

“It was a great bonding experience for our team,” Findley said. “In the process, we see that we are a part of a much bigger team trying to defeat a much larger opponent. It was a very gratifying experience.”

The Lady Eagles also spent their Thanksgiving Day gathering, transporting and distributing more than 250 meals in the Luther, Okla., area as part of a project organized and sponsored by Memorial Road Church of Christ.

In addition to the Lady Eagles’ efforts, the men’s soccer team contributed manpower to 4H.I.M. (His Healing Helping Hands International Ministries) during a break in fall workouts.

Coach David Scott’s players moved and loaded medical supplies destined for shipment and distribution to third-world countries.
Oklahoma Christian University will name its new baseball stadium “Dobson Field” in honor of longtime head coach Max Dobson and his late wife, Ramona.

OC officials made the surprise announcement during a baseball alumni reunion dinner on February 10 that was attended by many former players. Oklahoma Christian recently broke ground on the new facility in advance of the baseball program’s renewal next school year.

Max Dobson, a former baseball and basketball star at Pioneer High School and at Phillips University, coached the Eagle baseball team for 14 years (1967-80).

He compiled a 280-194 intercollegiate record and led the Eagles to eight playoff appearances, highlighted by a third-place finish in the 1972 NAIA College World Series. His 1976 team won the Texoma Conference championship. Including summer-league ball in the tough Industrial League, Dobson’s baseball teams amassed a 461-280 record.

Ramona, Max’s wife of 42 years until her passing in 2001, was dedicated to making others’ lives easier and more enjoyable. Her servant attitude and Christian example made a profound impact on Max’s players and on countless others at Oklahoma Christian and in the community.

“I am blown away by this honor,” Max Dobson said. “God truly led me here to serve, and I really appreciate the opportunities I have been afforded since coming to this university. To have our name on part of the campus is such a humbling honor. I owe so much to all of my former players. They were great individuals and it was such a privilege to coach young men of such high quality. It was a blessing to see many of them here and talk about baseball and their lives now. The players are OC baseball.”

Max, who also had distinguished tenures as OC’s athletic director and women’s basketball coach, is a member of OC’s Athletic Hall of Fame and the NAIA Hall of Fame.

“From the time we began working to bring back baseball, we felt the Dobson name belonged on our new facility,” OC executive vice president Alfred Branch said. “We are committed to bringing back baseball the right way, in the way that Max led the program: with a commitment to excellence, a commitment to family, a commitment to a winning tradition, and a commitment to Christian character both on and off the field.”

Dobson continues to teach at Oklahoma Christian, where he has served as physical education chair and received numerous academic honors. He is well-known in the surrounding community for his classes for local handicapped children. He began the classes in 1976 with the help of his baseball players. Since that time, almost 1,500 OC students have participated in the program, helping touch and change the lives of many people.

“It is only fitting that after 41 years of devoted service to OC as a professor, department chair, athletic director and coach that we honor this wonderful Christian man and servant of God by naming the new baseball facility in his honor,” said new OC baseball coach Chuck White, who played under Dobson in the 70s. “Because of his Christian character and integrity, Coach Dobson has laid the foundation by which this program shall be restored and function. He is our cornerstone and example.”

Dobson Field is conceived as a first-class facility with lights and other amenities that will make it an attractive venue for night games and for state, regional and national tournaments. Oklahoma Christian partnered with The Benham Companies on plans for the new facility. A campaign to fund the first phase of Dobson Field’s construction is in full swing. For more information, go to www.oceagles.com/batterup.

by Wes McKinzie (98)
The OC Road Show, a collaboration between OC’s Admissions and Alumni Relations offices, is a new program designed to promote Oklahoma Christian to prospective students and reconnect alumni to the university in informal home settings across the country. Alumni hosts open their homes and provide appetizers, snacks and refreshments for the OC Road Show, which helps OC Admissions staff focus on what they do best... connecting with prospective students!

We hope you’ll take the opportunity to host an OC Road Show. To get more info about hosting or to see if a road show is coming to your town, go to www.oc.edu/roadshow.

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We are humbled and honored to share our 2006 Honor Roll of Donors. Each donation has an impact on all facets of life at Oklahoma Christian. Gifts provide scholarships and fellowships for OC students; gifts promote the work of OC’s distinguished faculty; and gifts help Oklahoma Christian start new programs and strengthen existing ones. Your support, through your prayers, encouragement and financial gifts is critical as Oklahoma Christian University continues to develop young Christians for lives of commitment, service, and leadership in our world. Thank you!
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2006 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
The Honor Roll of Donors is printed strictly to acknowledge donor gifts. Any other use is unauthorized. The Honor Roll includes the names of donors whose gifts were made between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006. Gifts made after December 31, 2006, will be recognized in the 2007 Honor Roll of Donors.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the Honor Roll, we acknowledge that errors may have occurred. If you wish to report an error, please call 405.425.5094 or mail your correspondence to:

Oklahoma Christian University
Office for Advancement
Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100
Edna McNally: Planned Gifts Provide Endless Possibilities in the Lives of Young People

Edna McNally never attended Oklahoma Christian University; neither did any members of her immediate family.

In truth, Edna wasn’t even that familiar with OC until her later years. But this relative lack of a lifelong association didn’t dim Edna’s eventual love of Oklahoma Christian.

When she passed away in January 2006, at age 87, Edna generously remembered the university with its largest bequest ever.

Looking back, this generosity is not at all surprising. Edna and OC had so many common interests.

“Edna and her husband, Vernon, were a wonderful Christian couple,” said Bob Rowley, OC’s director of church relations. “And as a couple, they just wanted to give.”

Edna, a retired elementary teacher from Waynoka, Okla., initially learned of Oklahoma Christian at church and from friends. She made some small donations through the 1990s, though it wasn’t until she met Rowley in 1998 that Edna realized she and the university shared a vision.

“Edna had a love of young people and wanted to see them have an opportunity to come to school and reach their full potential in life,” Rowley said.

Edna and Vernon made one significant gift as a couple before his death in 2002. She then set up an endowed scholarship in Vernon’s name and established several charitable gift annuities before making her major bequest.

With Edna’s encouragement, her brother, Dale Cropp, also established two charitable gift annuities with the school.

“Edna was a person of tremendous conviction, compassion and commitment. She wanted to help young people transform their lives,” Rowley said. “Planned gifts such as Edna’s that are made in the here and now can provide endless possibilities for good things to happen in the lives of young people for eternity.”

New Law Provides IRA Giving Opportunities

On August 17, President Bush signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which includes a provision permitting charitable rollovers from individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

Through the end of 2007, individuals age 70½ can make charitable gifts directly from their IRA accounts.

The gifts are limited to a maximum of $100,000 in each year, and must be made directly to a charitable organization (gifts to donor advised funds and charitable trusts do not qualify).

Because the distribution is made directly from the IRA account to charity, it is accomplished without triggering any federal or state income taxes.

For more information on this unique short-term window for giving opportunities through IRA accounts, contact the Office for Planned Giving at 405.425.5118 or at stephen.eck@oc.edu.

College Funding Options for Grandparents

Grandparents paying college expenses for grandchildren have an additional option by funding an Oklahoma Christian University Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity.

Oklahoma Christian can restructure a standard gift annuity agreement so that instead of paying income to the donor over one or two lifespans, the gift annuity payout occurs over a set number of years, and is payable to the grandchild to pay for educational expenses.

Here’s how it works: A grandparent makes a tax-deductible gift to Oklahoma Christian. OC then issues a deferred gift annuity agreement that will pay income to the grandchild during his or her college years.

In addition to the friendly capital gains tax treatment, an Oklahoma Christian University Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity also will provide an excellent income tax deduction – even moreso than a standard gift annuity agreement since the annuity payout is compressed into a shorter term.

For more information, or to receive a personalized OC College Gift Annuity illustration, contact the Office for Planned Giving at 405.425.5118 or at stephen.eck@oc.edu.
Forty years ago, the members of OC’s freshman class, “on fire” with excitement about Homecoming, started a new tradition: the Homecoming Bonfire. Through the years, with the exception of three or four tradition-squelching burn bans in Oklahoma, this great OC tradition has been a part of every Homecoming since … and it’s still burning strong today. A mountain of wooden crates wasn’t the only thing on fire that week in November 1967. The Eagles defeated New Mexico Highlands, Soupy Sales McMillon won the pie eating contest, and Miss Cheryl McKee was crowned OC’s Homecoming Queen.
ALUMNI & ADVANCEMENT

April
2  OC Road Show - Arlington/Mansfield/ Ft. Worth
21 Mike McDonald Fun Run - OC Campus
30 OC Road Show - Houston

May
8  OC Road Show - Tulsa

June
22 Family Fun Night

November
9-10 Homecoming 2007

MUSIC

April
15  7:30 pm Opera - “The Old Maid and the Thief” and “La Canterina” - Hardeman
17  7:30 pm Oklahoma City Community Orchestra Concert - Judd
18  2:30 pm Honors Recital/Awards Ceremony - Recital Hall
19  7:30 pm Symphonic Band/Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert - Hardeman
22  2:30 pm Chorale/Chamber Singers Concert - Recital Hall
28-May 2  Symphonic Band/Jazz Ensemble Tour - Gulf Coast
28-May 10 Chorale/Chamber Singers Tour - Florida

CHURCH RELATIONS

April
17 Preachers’ Luncheon

May
15 Preachers’ Luncheon
31-June 2 Quest

ADMISSIONS

April
2  OC Road Show - Arlington/Mansfield/ Ft. Worth
13 Junior Day
30 OC Road Show - Houston

May
4  New Student Orientation
8  OC Road Show - Tulsa

June
23 New Student Orientation

August
20 New Student Orientation
22-25 Earn Your Wings
27 First Day of Classes

THEATRE

April
12-14 “Arms and the Man” - Hardeman

For a more detailed calendar of events and updates, visit www.oc.edu/calendar
It’s easy to get caught up in the excitement that a few years of positive change and growth can bring to a college campus. In the past few years, we’ve seen OC’s campus transformed. New dorms, renovated science labs, and a number of exciting changes to the physical landscape have all played a significant part in the transformation. As you read on our website (www.oc.edu/alumni) and in this magazine about all of the exciting things happening at Oklahoma Christian, I also want to draw your attention to what remains changeless.

Oklahoma Christian University is so much more than record enrollments, shiny new buildings, and new academic and athletic programs. Oklahoma Christian University, beneath everything we typically refer to as the University, is an idea. An idea that began in the 1950s with a desire to provide higher education grounded in our Creator and His truth. Despite the many ways OC has changed in the past 50 years, the same idea that made this such a special place then continues to impact lives here today. It permeates OC's mission to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership, and service. It’s who we were 50 years ago, it’s who we are today, and it’s who we will remain.

The future is bright at Oklahoma Christian because we remember who we are and where we came from. Thank you for helping us become who we are today. Please continue to pray for our work.

You can update your alumni information on Oklahoma Christian’s website. Visit www.oc.edu/alumni/update to update your name, address, email and other information.